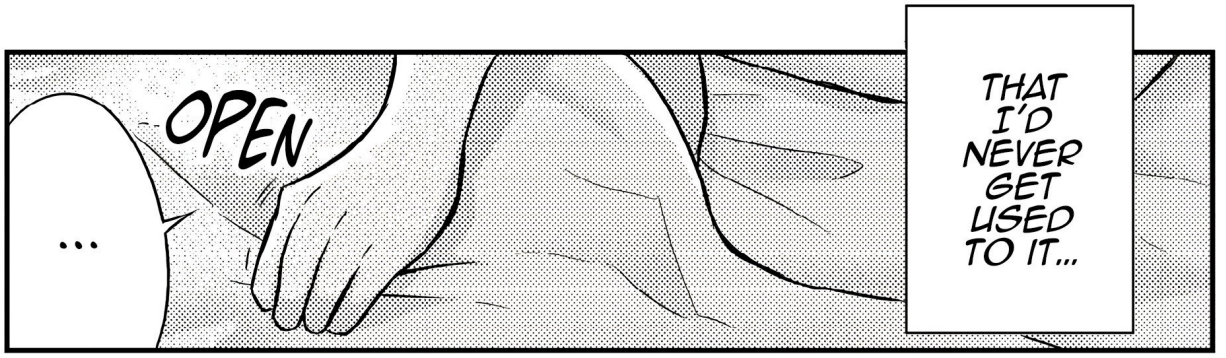
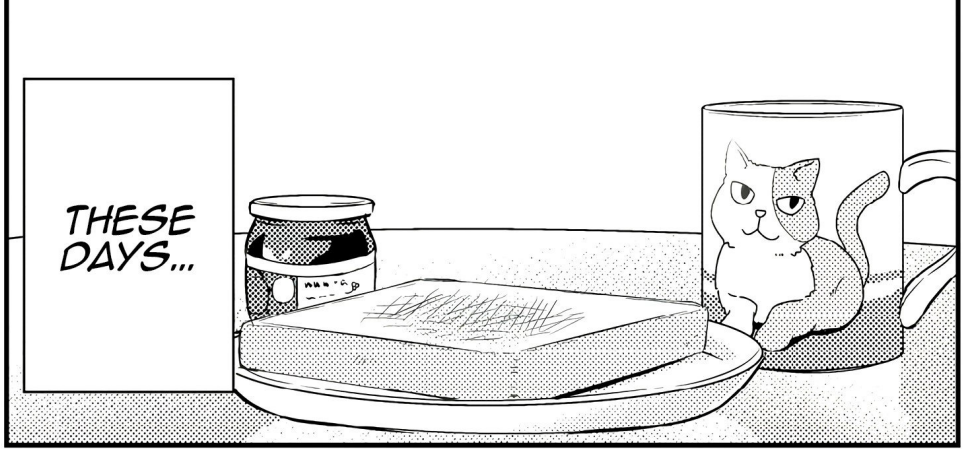
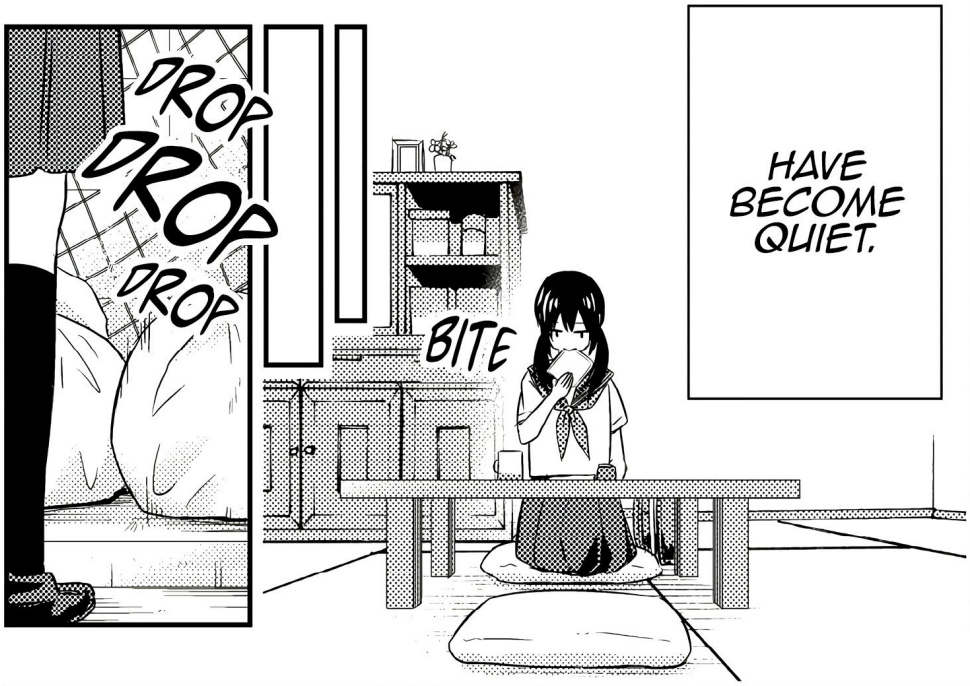
EVERY MORNING ...
I WOKE UP AND FOUND REIKO BY MY SIDE...
BEEP
BEEP
05:00
RISE
I THOUGHT THAT I'D ALWAYS FEEL UNEASY ABOUT IT...

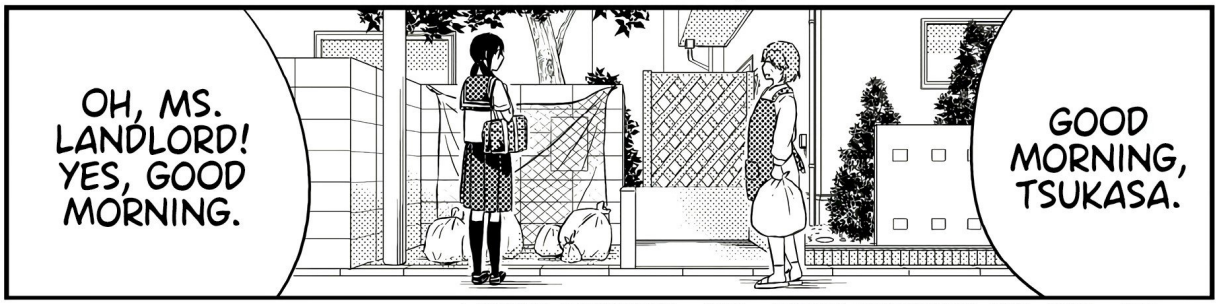

THAT I'D NEVER GET USED TO IT...
OPEN
...

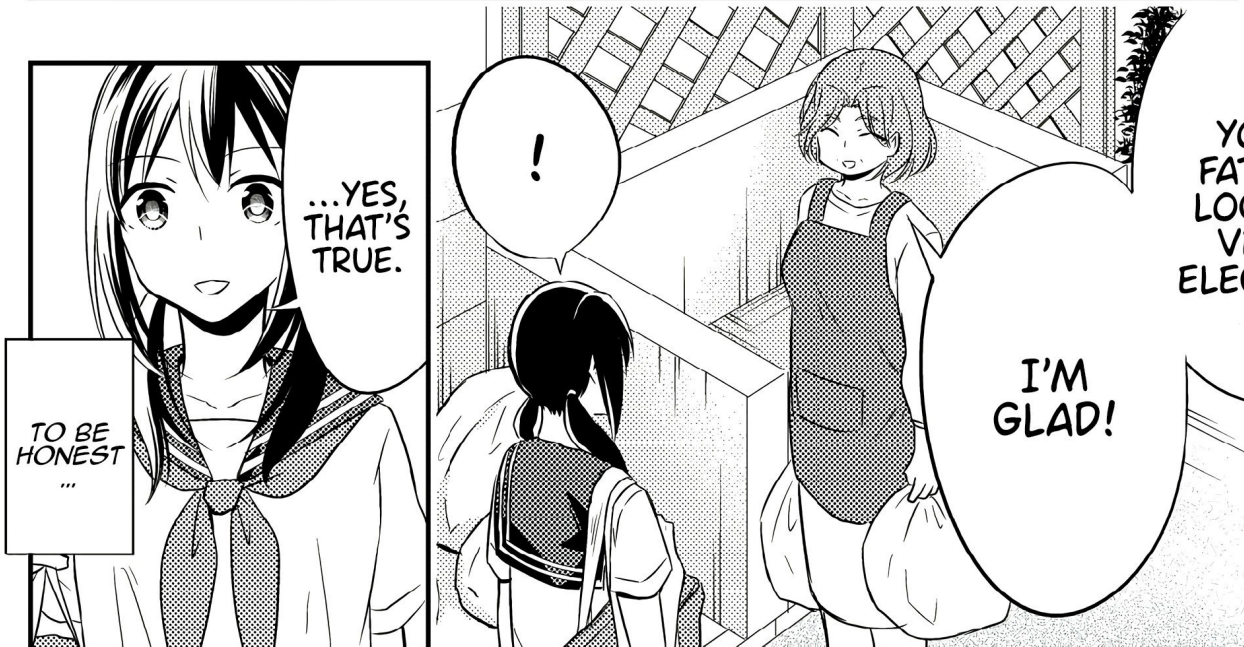
GOOD MORNING, TSUKASA.
MORNING. OH, LEAVING ALREADY? I WOULD'VE MADE BREAKFAST IF I'D WOKEN UP EARLIER.
TODAY'S MY FIRST DAY AT WORK, SO I THOUGHT I'D LEAVE EARLY.
BUT...


THESE DAYS...

...I SEE.
WELL, HAVE A NICE DAY.
THANKS, BYE.


DROP
DROP
DROP
BITE
HAVE BECOME QUIET.

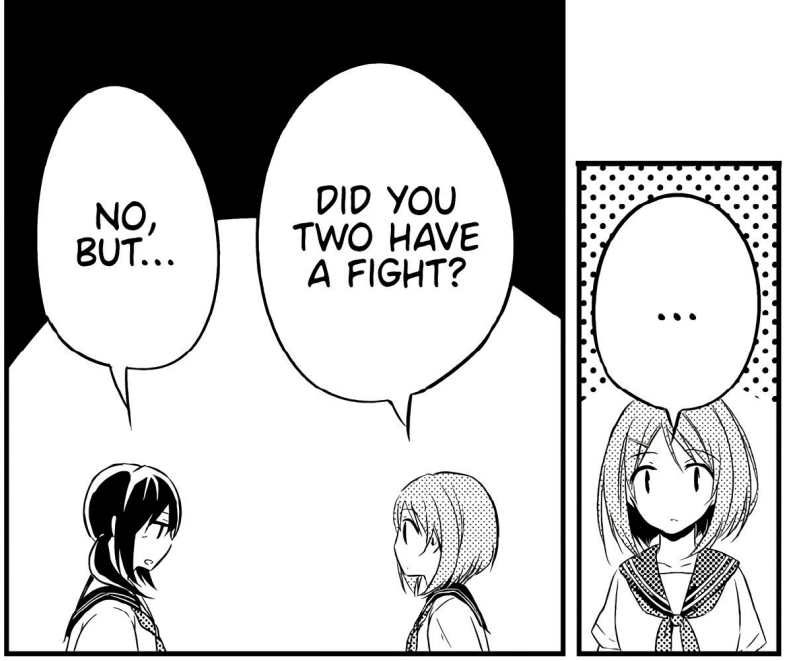

OH, MS. LANDLORD! YES, GOOD MORNING.
GOOD MORNING, TSUKASA.


TO BE HONEST ...
...YES, THAT'S TRUE.
!
YOUR FATHER LOOKED VERY ELEGANT!
I'M GLAD!

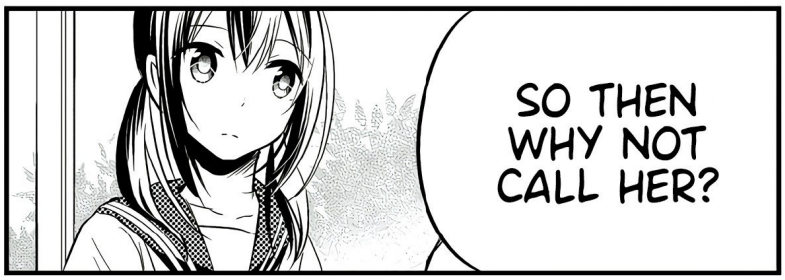
THIS DIDN'T LAST VERY LONG...
WELL... I WON MONEY AT THE LOTTERY.
I USED YOUR MOTHER'S BIRTHDAY AS THE NUMBERS AND I GOT THEM RIGHT.
WHAT...?
TURN
...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THE DEBT COLLECTORS NOT COMING BACK?
I'M SURE YOUR MOTHER COULDN'T BEAR TO SEE ME THIS WAY AND HELPED ME OUT.
FROM NOW ON, I'LL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO TAKE CARE OF YOU.
...
IT HAPPENED SUDDENLY, AND IT WENT AWAY THE VERY SAME...

BUT, ASIDE FROM IT BEING SORT OF A JOB...
SHE AND I DID LIVE TOGETHER.
BEEP
PLACE
IT'S RARE SEEING YOU MAKE A MISTAKE.
MANAGER.
THERE WAS AN EXPIRED BENTO BOX ON ONE OF THE SHELVES.
REALLY? SORRY.
I'LL GO CHECK THEM AGAIN.
PLEASE.
NO WAY...
I NEED TO FOCUS ON MY WORK.
DID SHE GO HOME?
MS. TOHYAMA ...
BEEP
SHE COULD'VE AT LEAST SAID BYE BEFORE LEAVING...

YOU REALLY NOTICE EVERY-THING, KANNA.
ONLY 'CAUSE YOUR HEAD'S BEEN IN THE CLOUDS.
I'M TALKING ABOUT YOUR COUSIN.
SO, SHE'S NOT COMING BACK?
NO... SHE'S NOT.
I SEE.
IT'S A BIT SAD.
...
BUT YOU CAN STILL TALK TO HER OVER THE PHONE, RIGHT?

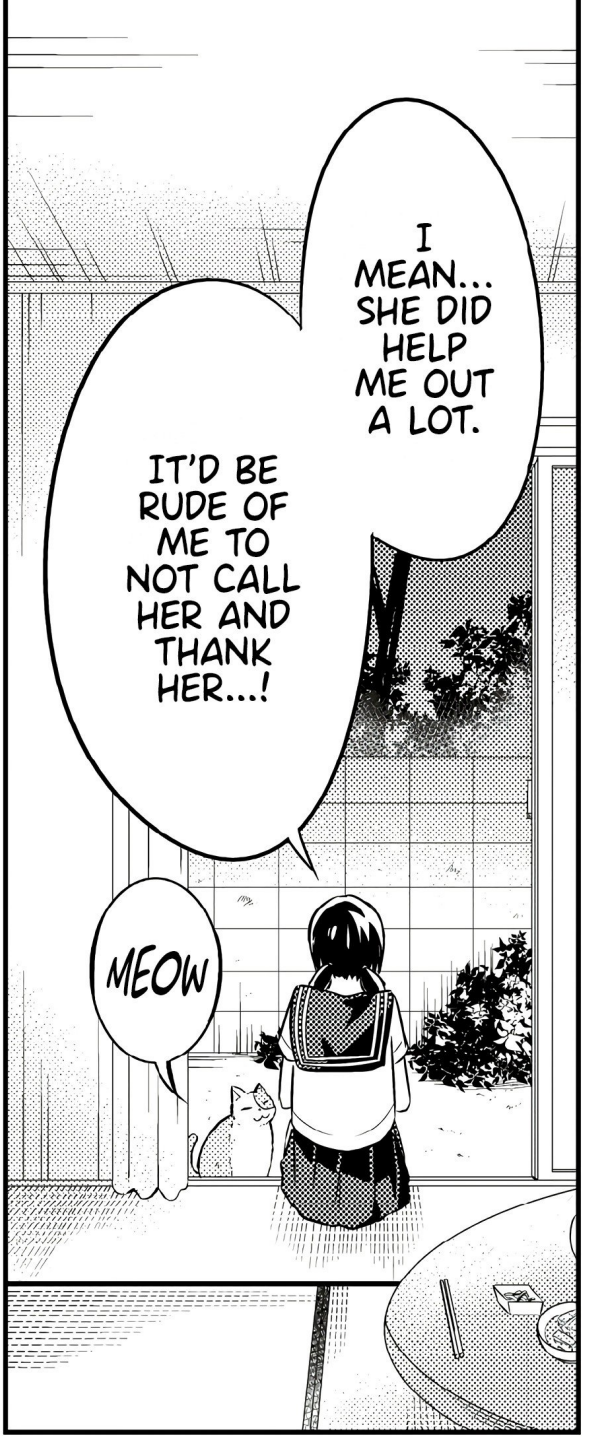

DID YOU TWO HAVE A FIGHT?
NO, BUT...

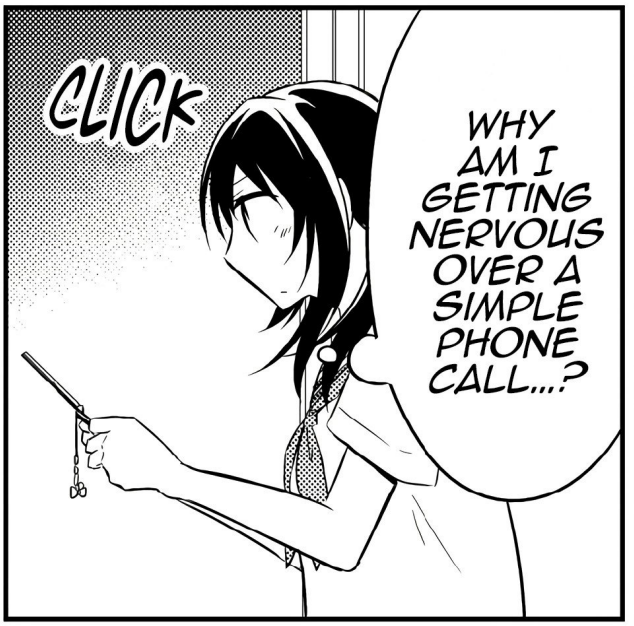
...

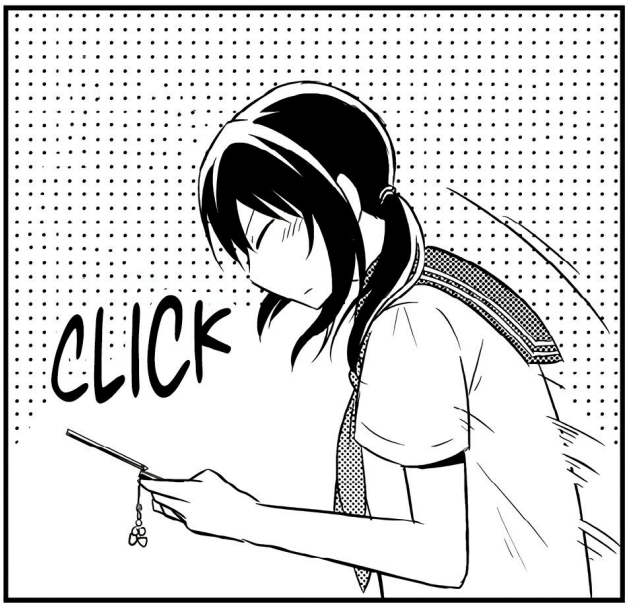

SO THEN WHY NOT CALL HER?

023
Reiko Tsurusaki
CLICK
CLICK

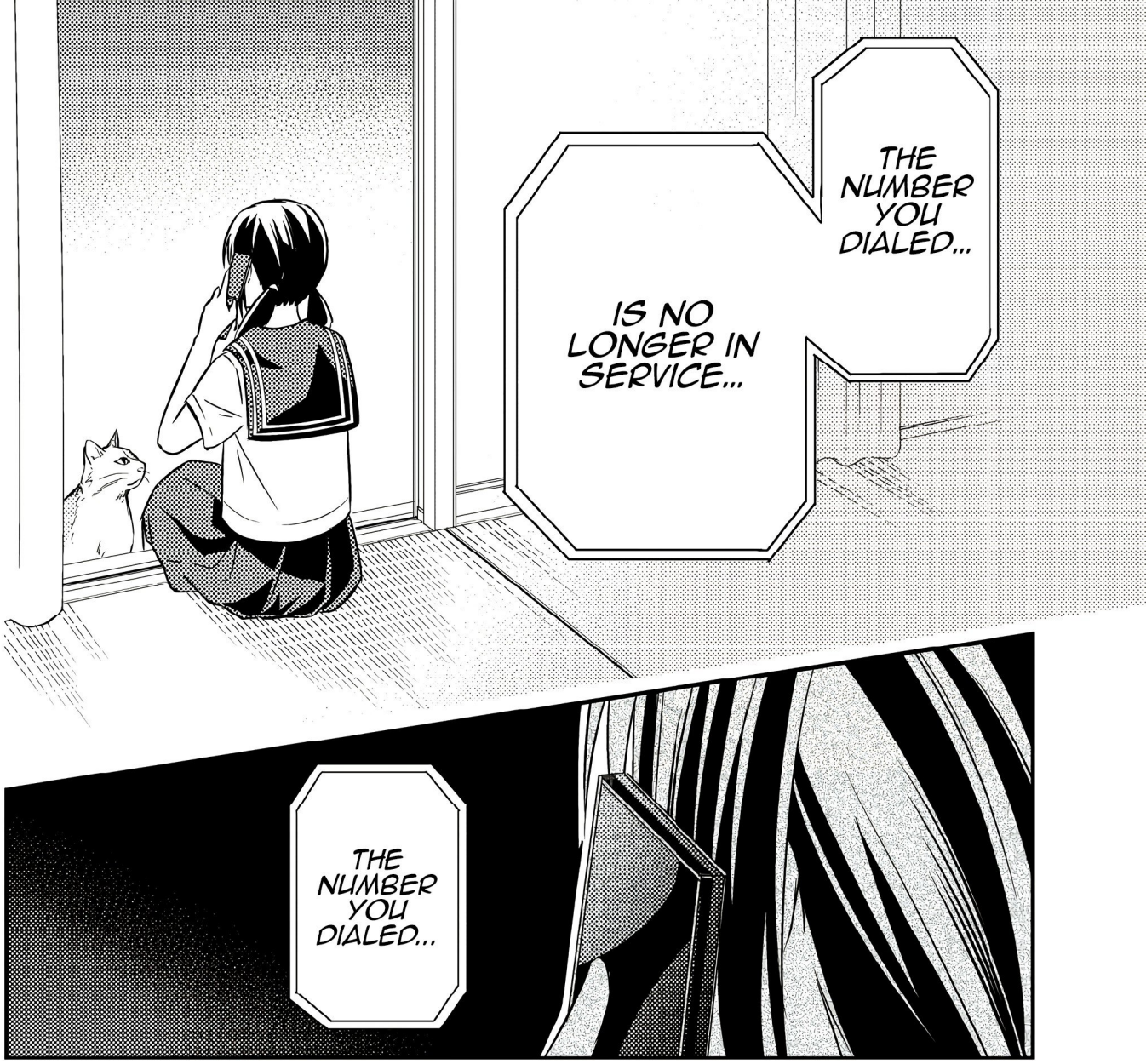
CALLING HER...?
I WONDER IF THAT WOULD BE OKAY.
HMM

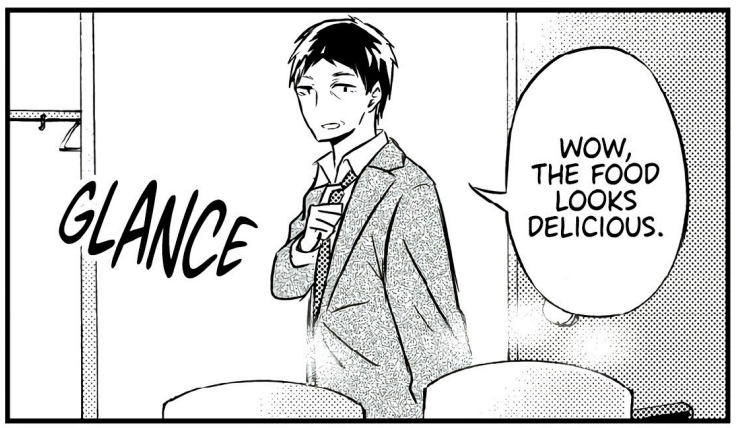

I MEAN... SHE DID HELP ME OUT A LOT.
IT'D BE RUDE OF ME TO NOT CALL HER AND THANK HER...!
MEOW


CLICK
WHY AM I GETTING NERVOUS OVER A SIMPLE PHONE CALL...?

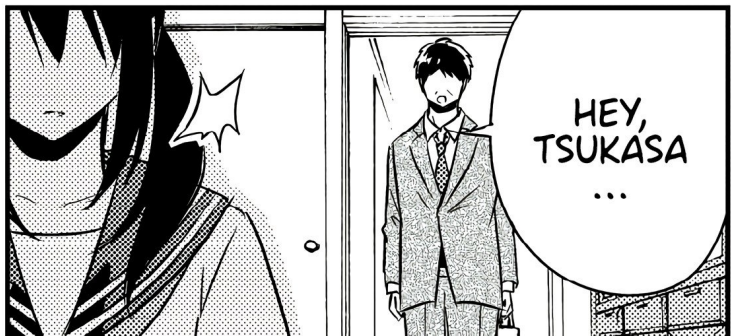

CLICK

RING


THE NUMBER YOU DIALED...
IS NO LONGER IN SERVICE...
THE NUMBER YOU DIALED...

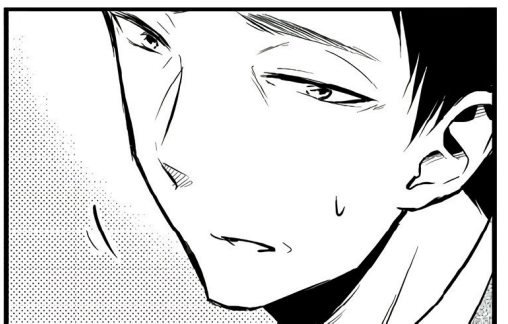

GLANCE
WOW, THE FOOD LOOKS DELICIOUS.

CLOSE
I'M BACK.


HEY, TSUKASA ...

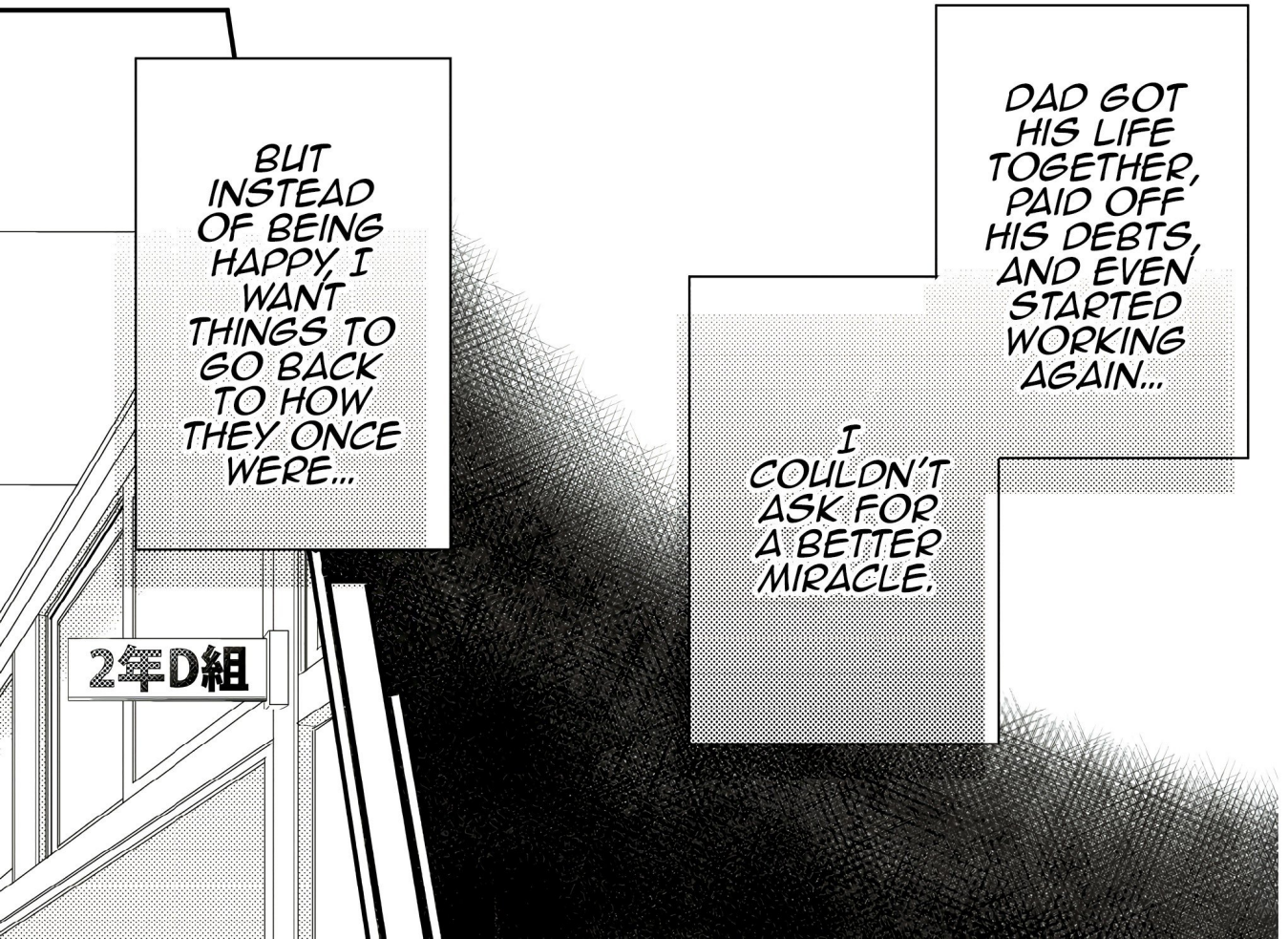
I'M SORRY FOR MAKING YOU GO THROUGH SOMETHING TRAUMATIC.
THE DEBT COLLECTOR PUSHED HERSELF IN HERE, RIGHT?

TSUKASA ...!
IT'S NOTHING. DINNER'S READY.
WIPE



YOU'RE WRONG!
DON'T TALK ABOUT THINGS YOU KNOW NOTHING ABOUT!
YOU LEFT ME TO RUN AWAY FROM YOUR DEBTS!
I HAD A HARDER TIME HAVING TO LIVE WITH AN INCOMPETENT FATHER THAN-
...

GASP
MOVE
I'M SORRY ...
...NO.
IT'S ALRIGHT.
I'M...
THE WORST.


DAD GOT HIS LIFE TOGETHER, PAID OFF HIS DEBTS, AND EVEN STARTED WORKING AGAIN...
I COULDN'T ASK FOR A BETTER MIRACLE.
BUT INSTEAD OF BEING HAPPY, I WANT THINGS TO GO BACK TO HOW THEY ONCE WERE...
2年D組

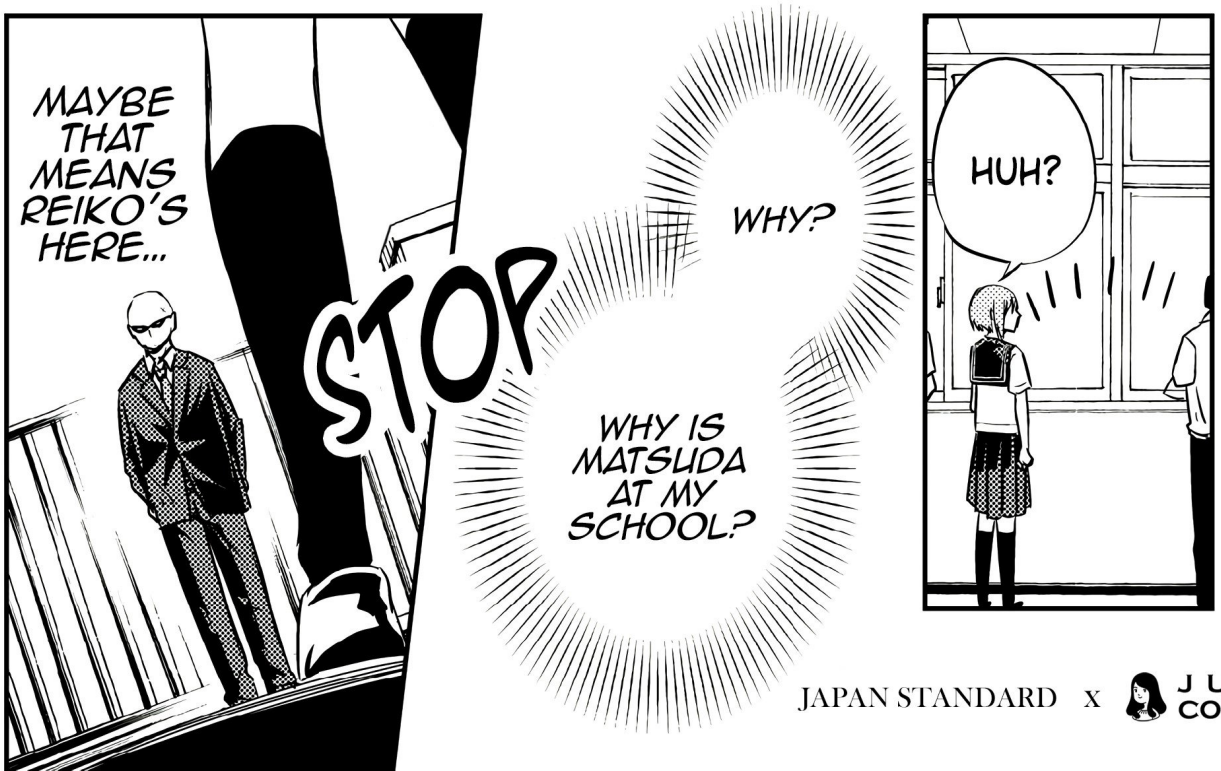
YOU LOOK SADDER THAN USUAL.
DID SOME-THING HAPPEN TO YOU AGAIN?
...
IT'S NOTHING.
YOU'VE REALLY CHANGED, TSUKASA.
I JUST HAVE TO FORGET ABOUT HER ALREADY...
THAT'S RIGHT...
REACH
HUH?
BEFORE, YOU ALWAYS LOOKED SAD...
BUT NOW YOU SHOW A WHOLE RANGE OF EMOTIONS.

I WON'T CONTINUE TO PRY, BUT...
I BELIEVE THAT YOU SHOULDN'T PRETEND AS IF NOTHING HAPPENED.
KANNA ...
WHERE? WHERE?
ISN'T HE A YAKUZA?
WHO'S THAT? SCARY!

GLANCE
I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED.

CHATTER
CHATTER

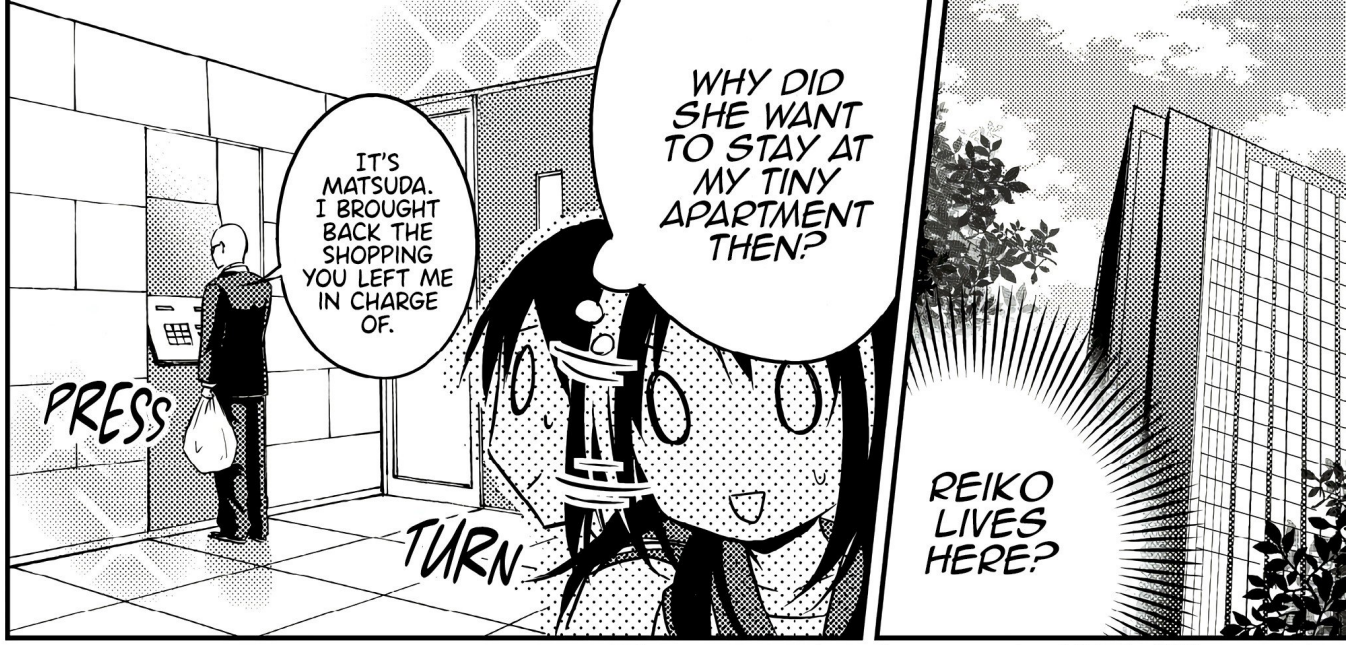
HE REALLY DOES LOOKS LIKE ONE...
WHAT DO YOU THINK IS GOING ON, TSUKASA?


MAYBE THAT MEANS REIKO'S HERE...
STOP
WHY?
WHY IS MATSUDA AT MY SCHOOL?
HUH?

WHAT?
UM...
THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT!
LEFT SCHOOL EARLY
REIKO HAS...
INSOM-NIA?
THE PAST TWO YEARS, ESPECIALLY SINCE SHE STARTED LIVING WITH YOU, SHE WAS DOING GREAT.
BUT NOW, IT'S BECOME WORSE.
WHAT CAN I DO THOUGH? IS IT MY FAULT?
IS IT POSSI-BLE...

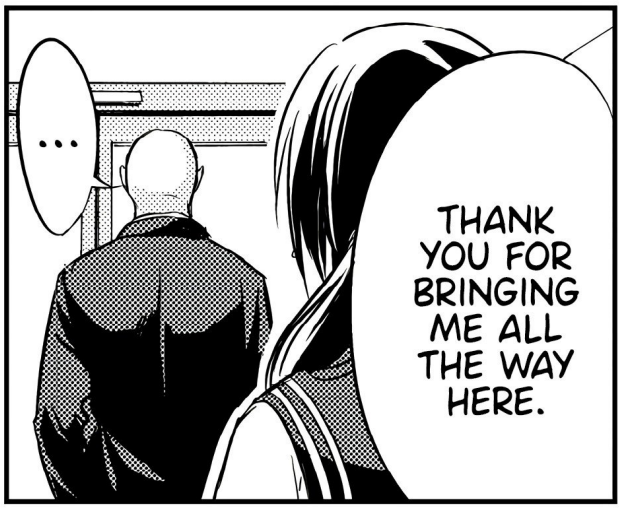
DOES THIS HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH WHAT YOU TOLD ME THE OTHER DAY?
THAT I REMIND YOU OF HER FROM THE PAST, OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
YOU SEE THAT SCAR ON MY HEAD?
?
THOUGH I'M ASHAMED TO ADMIT IT, I GOT IT AFTER REIKO SLAMMED ME ON THE FLOOR.
HUH?
BACK WHEN THE OFFICE RECENTLY HIRED ME...
WHAT? NO WAY IN HELL I'M BECOMING THIS WOMAN'S LACKEY!
ATSUDA! SHE IS ONE OF OUR BEST...
I'LL GIVE THE ORDERS AROUND HERE!
GRAB
!?

I DON'T EXACTLY KNOW WHAT HER STORY IS...
BUT ...
WHAT I DO KNOW IS THAT REIKO SAVED YOU WHEN YOU WERE IN TROUBLE.
BUT SHE WASN'T SO LUCKY.
BECAUSE OF THAT, SHE WAS FORCED TO BECOME STRONG, LITERALLY.
STOP
OH...
SHE LEFT ME IN CHARGE OF BUYING SOME STUFF, SO WE'LL BE STOPPING BY THERE ON THE WAY.


REIKO LIVES HERE?
WHY DID SHE WANT TO STAY AT MY TINY APARTMENT THEN?
IT'S MATSUDA. I BROUGHT BACK THE SHOPPING YOU LEFT ME IN CHARGE OF.
PRESS
TURN

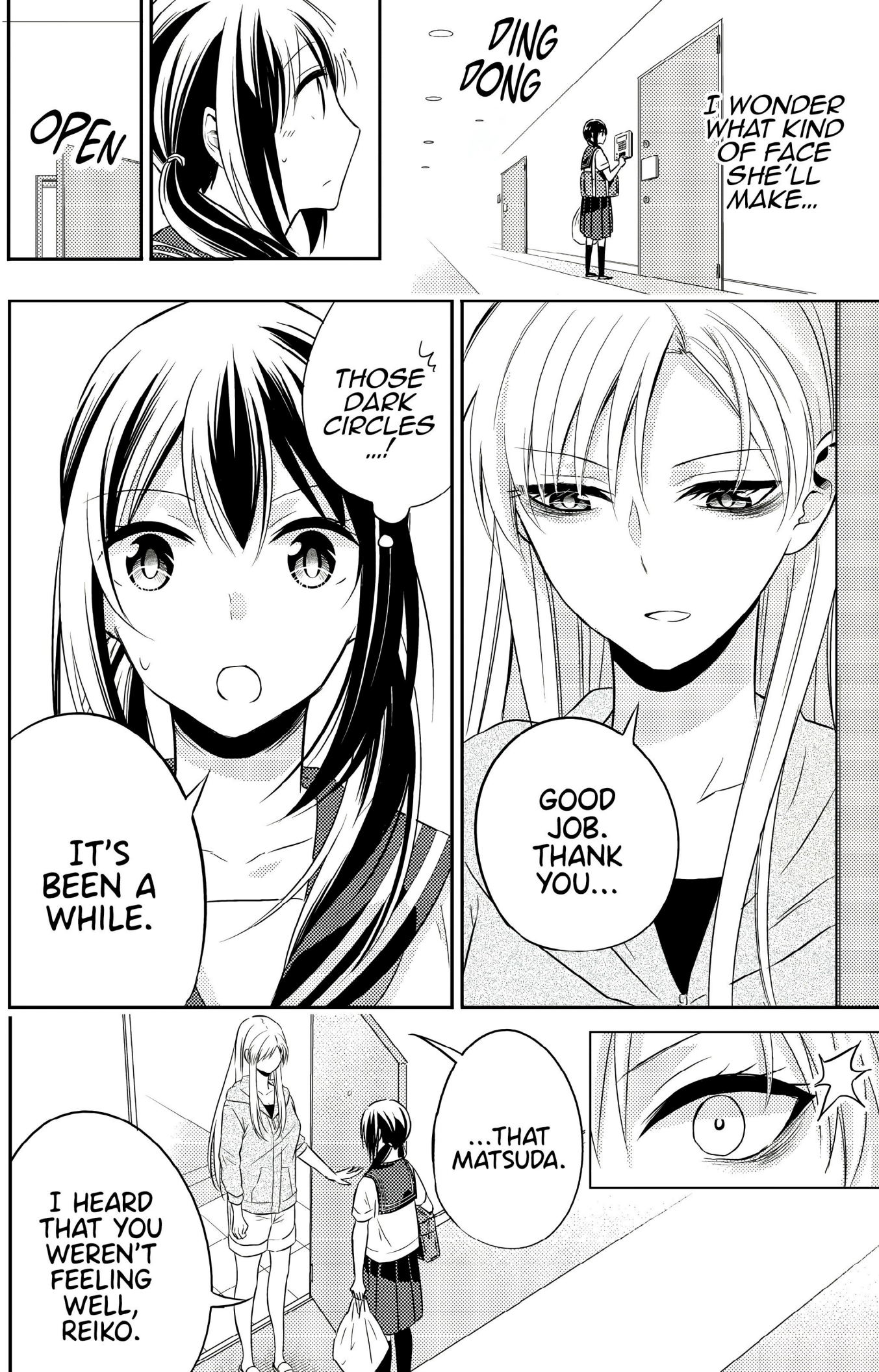
I'LL LEAVE THE REST UP TO YOU.
SHE'S GOING TO BE MAD AT ME, SO I'LL TAKE MY LEAVE.
WHAT? SHE'S GONNA BE MAD?

TURN
BYE.
HEY, MATSUDA!


THANK YOU FOR BRINGING ME ALL THE WAY HERE.
...

I'M ONLY DOING THIS 'CAUSE WE CAN'T FALL BEHIND OUR WORK!
TURN

SORRY, SORRY.
YOU'RE TAKING ADVANTAGE! I WON'T BE ABLE TO CARRY ALL OF THIS IN ONE TRIP.
DAMN IT.
...
WELL ...
DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S MORE IMPORTANT?
THINK OF IT THIS WAY...NO ONE WILL THINK TWICE OF COMING NEAR YOU.
I THINK SOME OF HER PERSONALITY RUBBED OFF ON ME. BACK TO WORK, I GUESS.
SCRATCH
REIKO...


OPEN
DING DONG
I WONDER WHAT KIND OF FACE SHE'LL MAKE...
THOSE DARK CIRCLES ...!
IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
GOOD JOB. THANK YOU...
...THAT MATSUDA.
I HEARD THAT YOU WEREN'T FEELING WELL, REIKO.

LEAVE. I HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU ANYMORE.
I KNOW THAT...
IT'S THE REASON YOU CHANGED YOUR PHONE NUMBER...
BUT...
NAH, DON'T WANT TO.
I'M GONNA DO WHATEVER I WANT.
WAIT! WHAT ARE YOU...

IF YOU SAVED ME OUT PITY,
THEN I'LL DO THE SAME FOR YOU TOO!

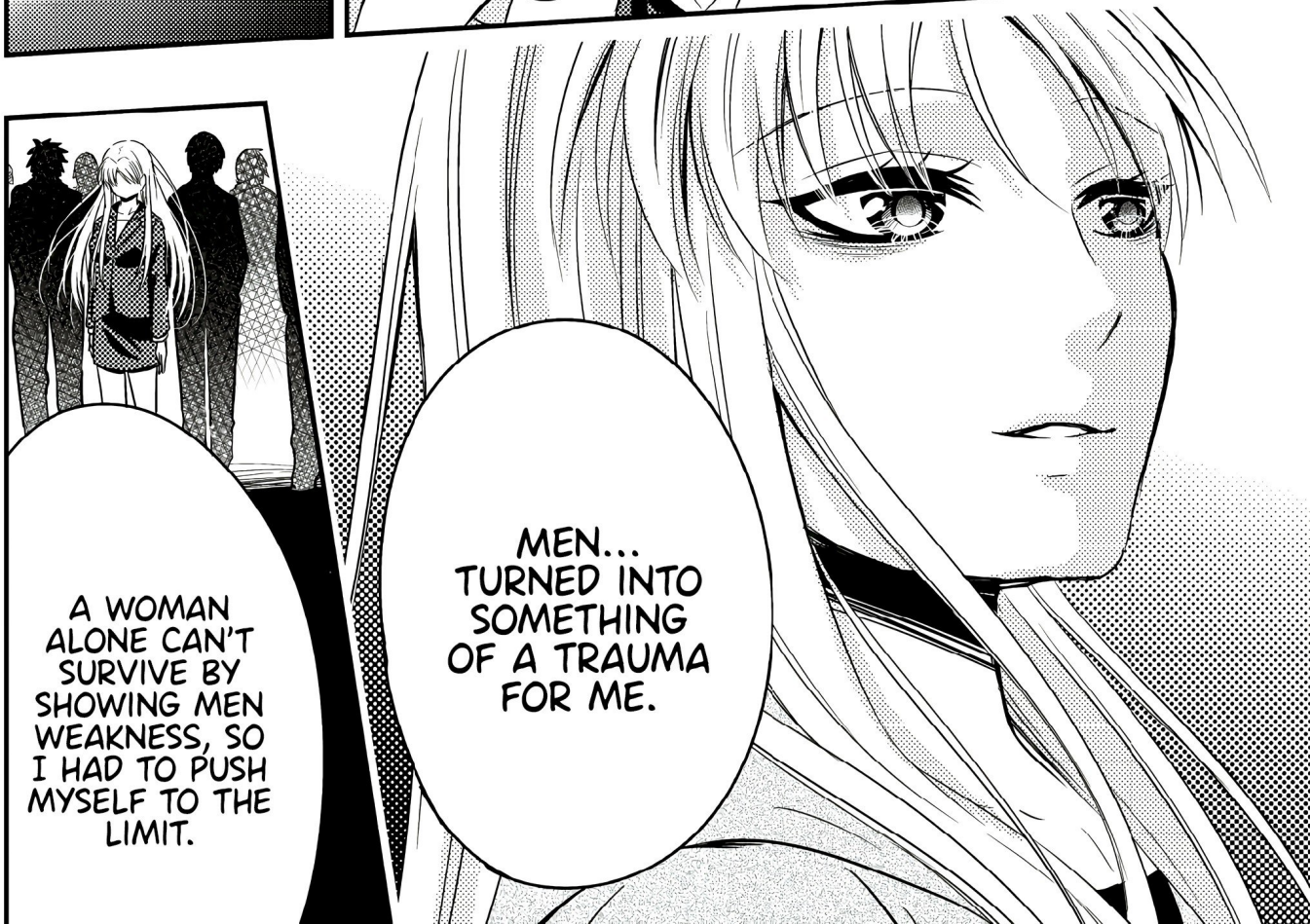
STEP
STEP
EXCUSE ME! I'M GOING TO USE YOUR KITCHEN!
WE'VE SWITCHED PLACES FROM THE FIRST TIME WE MET.
...
WHAT A HUGE ROOM!
I JUST DID...
SOME-THING DARING ....!

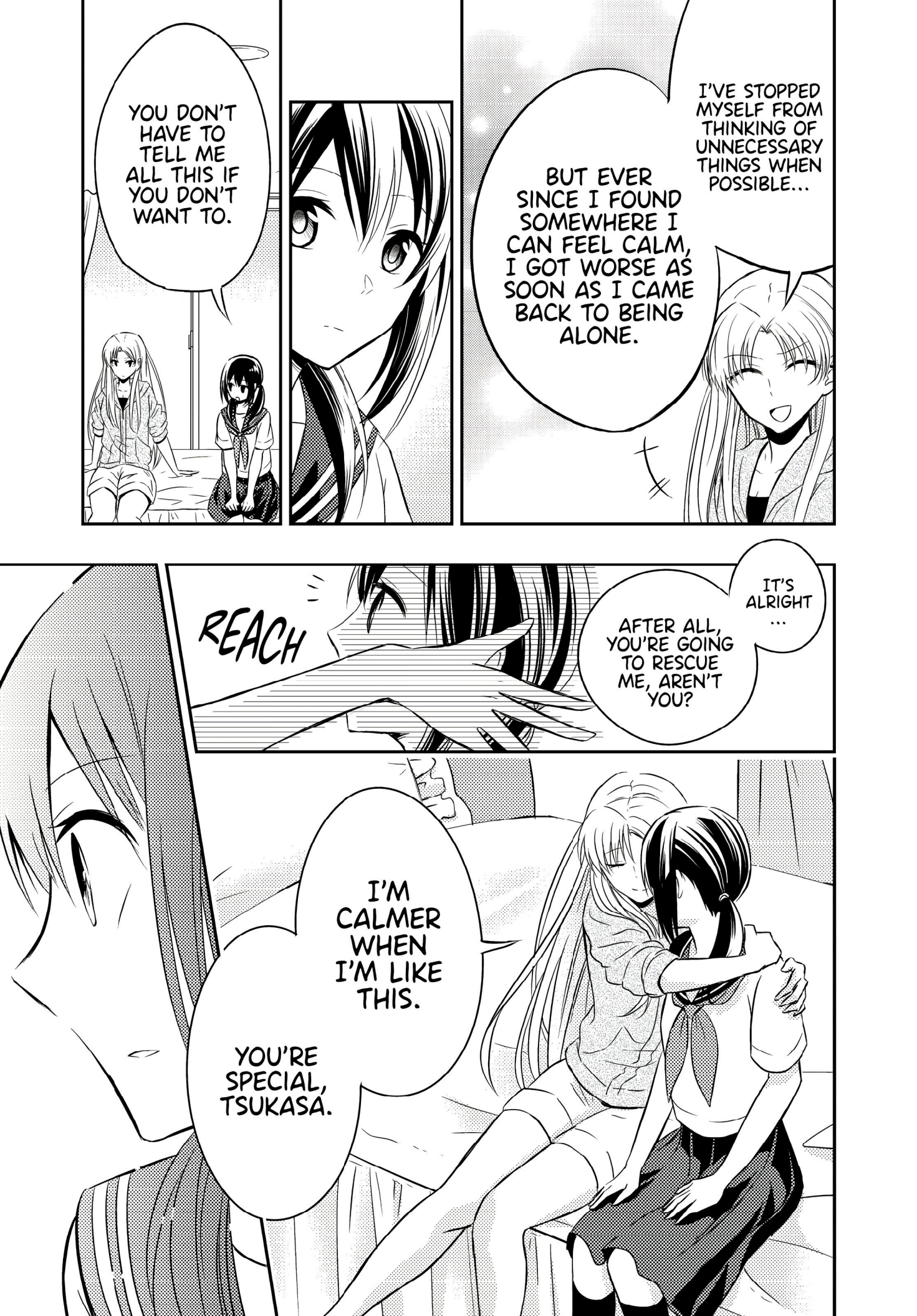
PLACE
IT'S A BIT SIMPLE, BUT PLEASE HAVE A BITE.
YOU MUST BE ARROGANT TO BREAK INTO SOME-ONE'S HOUSE LIKE THAT.
STOIC
…
YOU HAVEN'T EATEN ANYTHING DECENT EVER SINCE YOU'VE BEEN SICK.
…

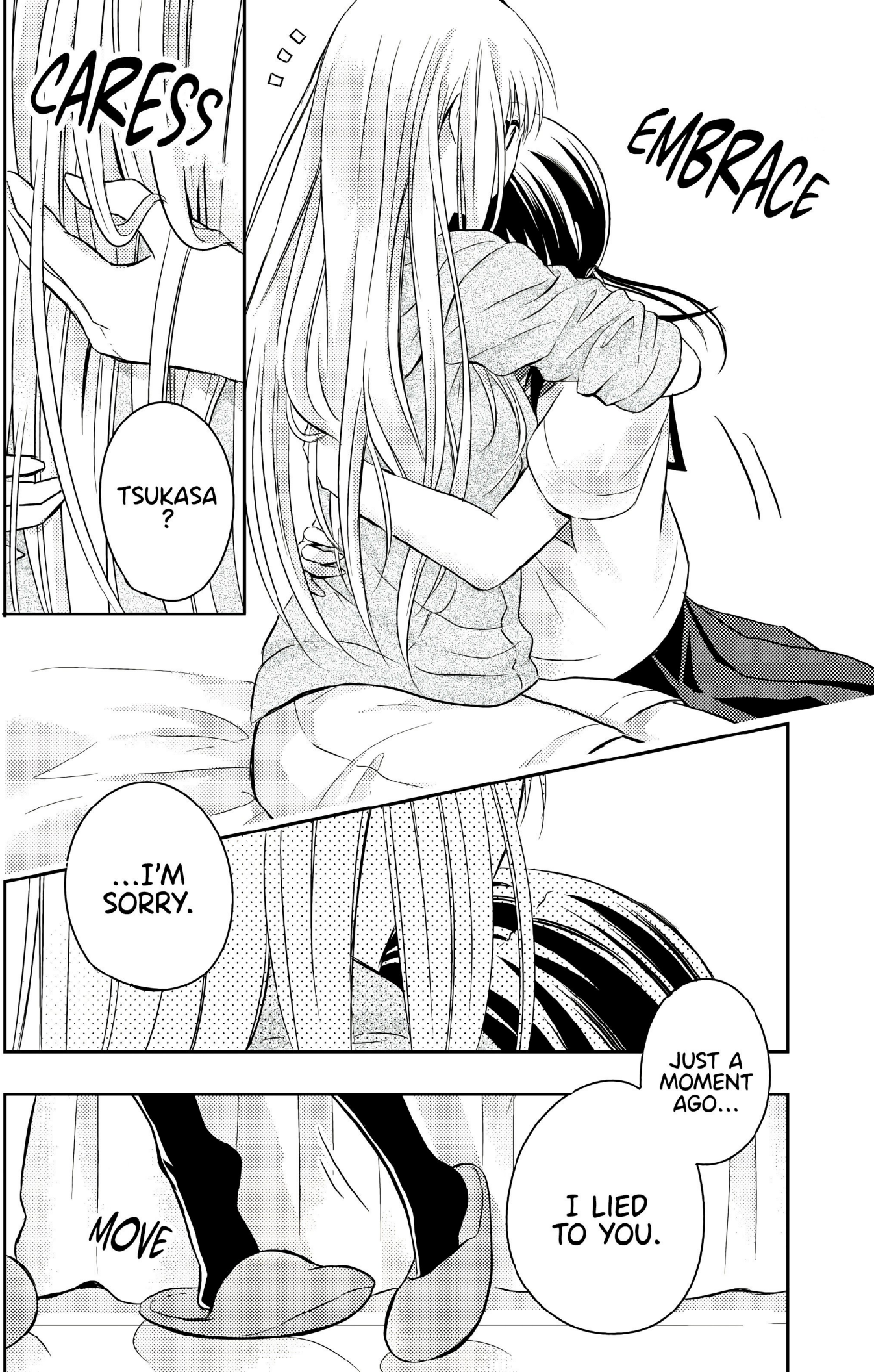
SIGH
LOOKS LIKE I GOTTA GIVE UP...
IN THE END, YOUR FOOD HAS COMPLETELY ENTRAPPED ME.
SO GOOD!♥
...

I'M SURPRISED MATSUDA BLABBED ABOUT ME.
HE WAS REALLY WORRIED ABOUT YOU.

IN MY CASE, I STILL HAD BOTH MY PARENTS ...
BUT THEY USED ME AS A TOOL TO PAY BACK THEIR DEBTS, YOU KNOW.
!
IT WAS A HARD LIFE, BUT I WAS ABLE TO BE FREE AFTER A MONTH
WHEN I FOUND THE JOB OF A DEBT COLLECTOR.


MEN... TURNED INTO SOMETHING OF A TRAUMA FOR ME.
A WOMAN ALONE CAN'T SURVIVE BY SHOWING MEN WEAKNESS, SO I HAD TO PUSH MYSELF TO THE LIMIT.


I'VE STOPPED MYSELF FROM THINKING OF UNNECESSARY THINGS WHEN POSSIBLE...
BUT EVER SINCE I FOUND SOMEWHERE I CAN FEEL CALM, I GOT WORSE AS SOON AS I CAME BACK TO BEING ALONE.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME ALL THIS IF YOU DON'T WANT TO.
IT'S ALRIGHT ...
AFTER ALL, YOU'RE GOING TO RESCUE ME, AREN'T YOU?
REACH
I'M CALMER WHEN I'M LIKE THIS.
YOU'RE SPECIAL, TSUKASA.

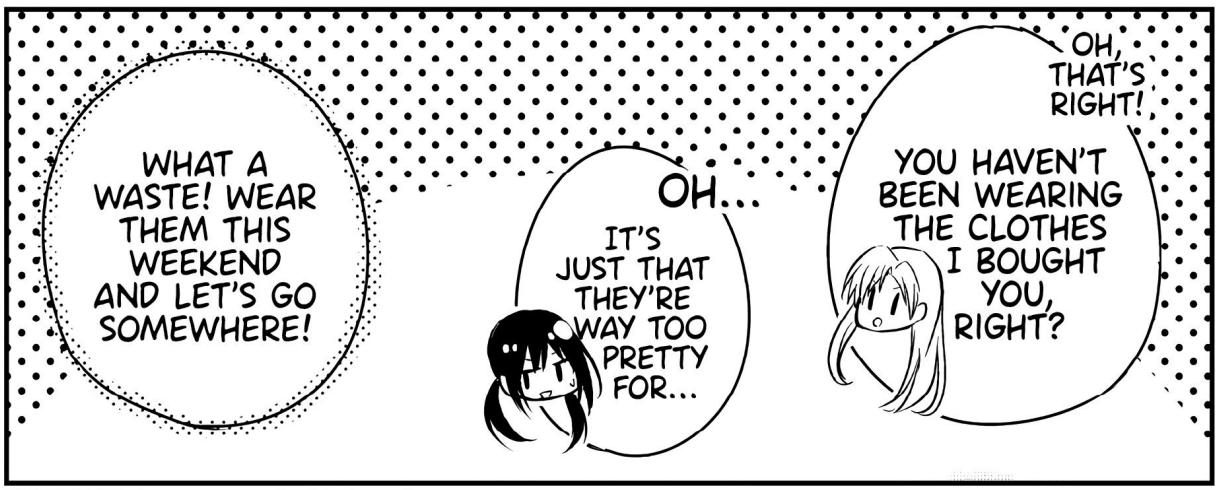

CARESS
EMBRACE
TSUKASA ?
...I'M SORRY.
JUST A MOMENT AGO...
I LIED TO YOU.
MOVE

I'M NOT A GOOD PERSON LIKE YOU REIKO...
I'M NOT DOING THIS BECAUSE I FEEL PITY TOWARDS YOU.

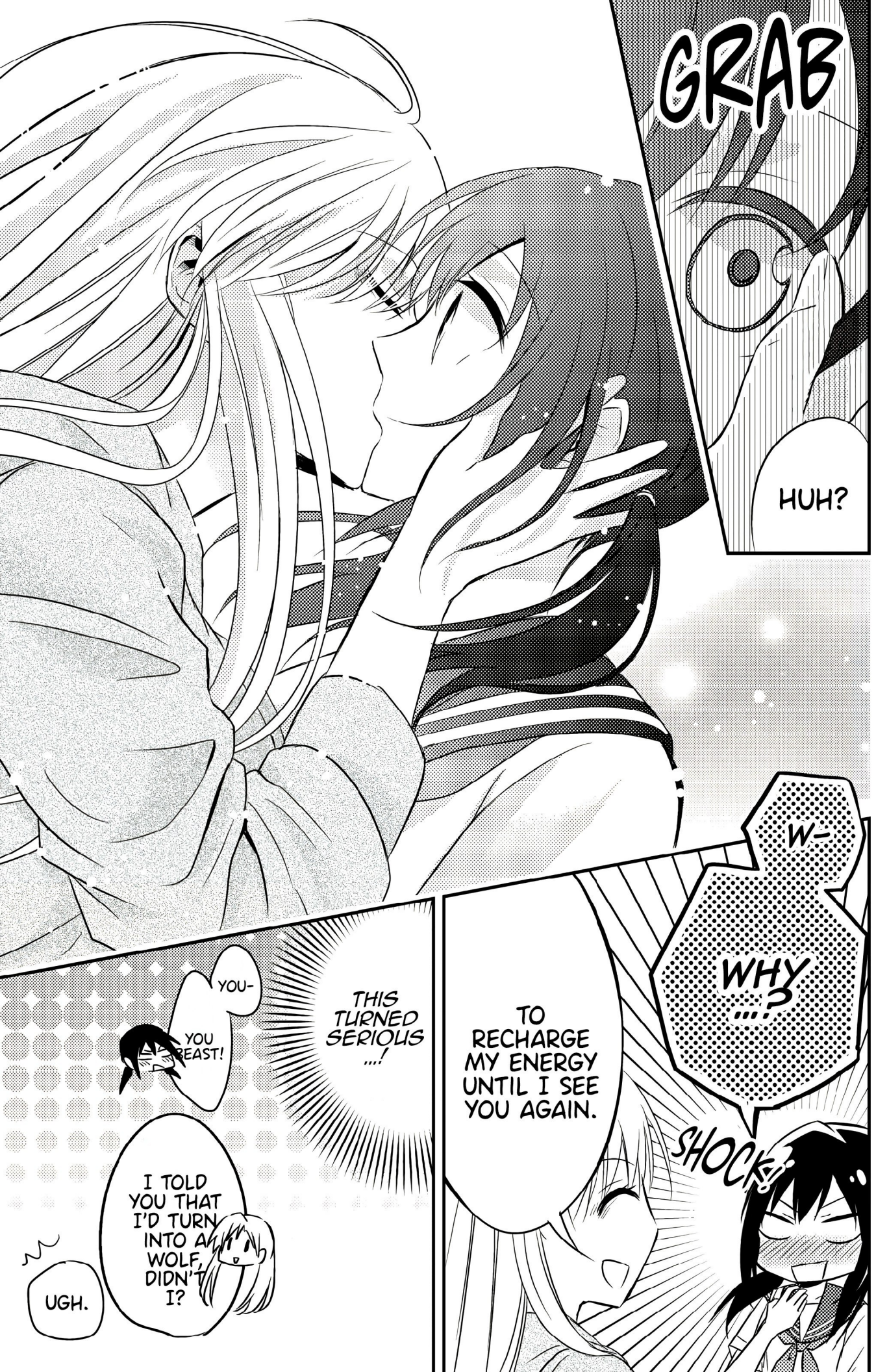
...THE SAME GOES FOR ME.
OH, BUT FOR YOU TO SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT...
FALL
I JUST MIGHT TURN INTO A WOLF.
CLOSE
OH...

I NEVER THOUGHT I WOULD EVER GET USED TO SLEEPING NEXT TO HER...
BUT AT THIS VERY MOMENT, I FEEL AT PEACE.
GOOD NIGHT, MISS WOLF.
CHIRP CHIRP

SORRY FOR NOT BEING ABLE TO TAKE YOU HOME.
YOU CAN STAY HERE IF YOU WANT.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
MY DAD WILL GET WORRIED ...
PLUS, THERE'S SOMETHING I HAVE TO APOLOGIZE TO HIM ABOUT.
I SEE.


OH, THAT'S RIGHT!
YOU HAVEN'T BEEN WEARING THE CLOTHES I BOUGHT YOU, RIGHT?
OH...
IT'S JUST THAT THEY'RE WAY TOO PRETTY FOR...
WHAT A WASTE! WEAR THEM THIS WEEKEND AND LET'S GO SOMEWHERE!

IS THAT...A DATE?
AND...


GRAB
HUH?
W-
WHY...?
SHOCK!
TO RECHARGE MY ENERGY UNTIL I SEE YOU AGAIN.
THIS TURNED SERIOUS...!
YOU-
YOU BEAST!
I TOLD YOU THAT I'D TURN INTO A WOLF, DIDN'T I?
UGH.